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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

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MAY 24 1946

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FIELD MEMORANDUM SCS-1114

Re: Photography

May 13, 1946

TO ALL FIELD PERSONNEL:

To reduce the costs and improve the quality of our photographic work, certain revisions in Service policy and procedure in connection with the allocation and use of cameras have become desirable.

It shall henceforth be the policy of the Service to provide each work group with a 35 m/m camera to be used with color film exclusively. These cameras will be made available as rapidly as funds permit and as personnel demonstrate reasonable proficiency in their use, as determined by the Regional Division of Information. Black-and-white cameras now in the field will be recalled as 35 m/m replacements are made.

Color film for the new 35 m/m cameras will be obtainable from the regional offices by requisition, subject to approval of the Regional Division of Information. The 2 x 2 inch color slides will to a large extent supplant black-and-white photographs in the educational activities of the work group. Each work group will maintain its own file of slides.

In place of the complex black-and-white cameras now in the field, the Service will provide from one to eight new black-and-white cameras, of simple operation, for use in each State. The number of black-and-white cameras assigned for use in a State will be determined by the Regional Division of Information on the basis of the photographic needs of the Service program in the State, and following as nearly as possible the recommendations of the State Conservationist. As in the case of the 35 m/m color cameras, the black-and-white cameras will be made available as rapidly as funds permit and as personnel can demonstrate proficiency in their use.

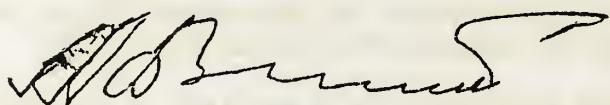
Exposed black-and-white film will be developed in the regional office. Only those photographs having a clear-cut reproduction quality will be given an official number.

The Regional Photographer will be expected to devote a larger amount of time and attention hereafter to the production of color and black-and-white photographs of sufficiently high quality to meet the reproduction standards of magazines and other media utilizing photographs. The demand for photographs of soil erosion and soil conservation work has increased markedly, but the

standards of quality which must be met have risen simultaneously. Inasmuch as the photograph is one of the most effective tools available for conservation education, the quality of Service photography must be improved if it is to continue as a useful tool.

By making the 35m/m color cameras available to work groups, and a limited number of black-and-white cameras per State, it should be unnecessary for the Regional Photographer to engage in taking routine pictures for districts and work unit personnel, except on a very limited scale.

The purchase and use of cameras in connection with research activities of the Service remain unchanged.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. D. Brundage".

Chief